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U.S. TO GET WORLD CUP

By LAURIE SCHWAB

The U.S.A. is almost certain to be the 1986 World Cup host, following Brazil's withdrawal as a possible Cup venue.

Brazil withdrew because its government refused to lend its support.

The government's decision comes in the middle of a severe foreign exchange crisis. With the largest foreign debt in the developing world, estimated at \$89,000 million, Brazil recently devalued the cruzeiro by 23 per cent and took out a series of multi-billion dollar international loans.

Mexico, the USA and Canada remain the three nations vying to stage the 1986 World Cup.

FIFA will choose the successful candidate in May, but there's little doubt the nod will go to the USA.

Mexico has financial problems similar to Brazil's and FIFA is unlikely to allocate the Mexicans the World Cup on top of the World Youth Championships to be played there this year.

Canada boasts the 70,000-seat Olympic Stadium in Montreal and 60,000-seat grounds in Vancouver and Edmonton, but the Canadian government's sports agency says the nation is not in a position to give the World Cup project its full financial backing.

That leaves the USA, with its enormous promotional expertise, its huge TV networks and its many grounds.

Most of those grounds have artificial turf which is unacceptable to FIFA for World Cup competition and were designed for gridiron or baseball, but the USA has offered to convert them in time.

McCurdy jailed over shooting

Former Northern Ireland international striker Colin McCurdy, who had a brief but impressive stint with Northcote in the Victorian Soccer League last year, has been hitting the headlines since his return to Belfast — but not always on the sports pages.

McCurdy, a member of the militant Protestant organisation the Ulster Defence Association, has been charged with raiding a confectionery shop, using a firearm or imitation firearm, robbing the shop of \$300 and causing grievous bodily harm to the Catholic owner, who was shot in the leg.

The alleged offences took place in March, 1982, shortly before his arrest, McCurdy had been high on the Irish League goal-scorers' list, despite playing for the mediocre Crusaders combination and was being widely tipped for further international honours.

— PAUL MOON



• Sydney club Prague of 1959 — probably the greatest side in Australian history — included five Australia stars: Tamandi, Sagi, Jeros, Schwarz and H. Ninea. The team is, from left: R. Lord, L. Scheinfug, W. Tamandi, A. Sagi, K. Jeros, E. Schwarz, H. Ninea, A. Purcell, S. Sherwin, K. O'Neill, K. Hiron.

Arok to meet England, Thomson in, then out

National coach Les Scheinfug sportingly threw his weight behind Frank Arok of St. George this week, although he had been let down badly by the ASF's World Cup committee.

Arok was appointed by the committee to coach the Socceroos in three matches against England in June, with Tony Boggi (Morwell Falcons) as his assistant. Yet Scheinfug had recommended that Eddie

Thomson of Sydney City be given the job, and ASF officials had in fact, told Thomson that this would be done. At one stage, he was told to go and get a suit and tie so a Press conference could be called there and then to announce his appointment. However, the decision then was delayed until Saturday, when Arok got the nod.

"I want to help Frank Arok as much as possible," Scheinfug said this week. "He's an excellent fellow, a top coach with the score on the board, and I'm sure he'll do a great job. I will encourage him if he thinks there are players who should be brought into the squad, and I will leave him in charge totally. I will only guide him."

Scheinfug cannot coach the Socceroos in the series against England because he will be in Mexico at the time to lead the young Socceroos in the World Youth Championships. His assistant, Raul Blanco, will be with him.

Continued p. 6

Australian artist at APIA

The arrival of APIA's star recruit Johan Scharmann has stirred memories of the golden days when Leo Baumgartner, Herbert Ninea, Karl Jeros and Walter Tamandi spiced our soccer with their Australian artistry.

Scharmann, 33, a brilliant midfield general, played his first match for APIA two weeks ago in a 0-2 loss to Newcastle KB United. He was slowed down by a couple of heavy clashes with Craig Mason in that game, yet came close to scoring nevertheless.

Scharmann played for Voest Linz and Graz AK in the Australian First Division, and also for the Los Angeles Aztecs in the US.

"Scharmann's an excellent player, with incredible ball skill," Scheinfug said. "He's long been one of the top players in Austria and has been on the verge of selection to the Austrian national team."

Austrian players have been rare in Australian soccer since the overseas poaching which resulted in Australia's expulsion from FIFA in April, 1980.

The suspension followed complaints by overseas clubs including FK Austria and Grazer SK that Austral-

ian clubs had used their players without first securing transfer certificates.

FK Austria was asking 8000 pounds for Baumgartner, Jeros, Sagi, Tamandi, Hrcic and Schwartz who were playing with clubs in Sydney. Baumgartner's price alone was quoted at 4500 pounds. Grazer SK put a value of 1545 pounds on Herbert Ninea and 1030 pounds on his brother Erwin. In dollar terms, the total transfer fees claimed were \$92,000.

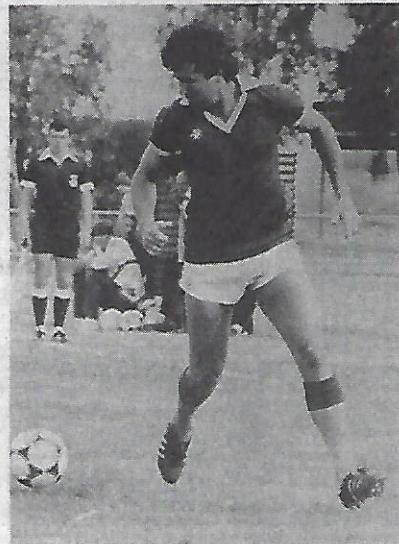
Other players concerned were Neuhold, Grilic, Fojtik, Durnberger, Wenzl and Blutsch from Austria and van Heeswijk, van Alphen, van de Gaag, Boskloppe, Boni and Zoeteman from Holland.

Of these, van Alphen, Hrcic, Jeros, H. Ninea, and Baumgartner went on to represent Australia.

An Australian negotiating team headed by Victoria's Theo Marmaras succeeded in having the fees reduced, and so Australia paid about \$37,000 in transfer fees to be granted re-affiliation with FIFA in July, 1980.

During the period of suspension, Australia was unable to play against overseas teams.

— LAURIE SCHWAB



APIA's new Austrian midfielder
Johan Scharmann

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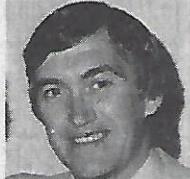
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Eddie Thomson



Tony Boggi

Campbell, O'Shea, Pullen, Hogg first new men

Jim Campbell (Heidelberg), Mike O'Shea (St George), Mark Pullen (APIA) and Steve Hogg (Brisbane Lions) have been invited to the Socceroos' next training camp, starting in Sydney on March 21.

Campbell, a regular Victorian State representative, played for Australia twice against Czechoslovakia and once against AC Milan in 1980.

Hogg has played 11 games for Australia, but Pullen and O'Shea both are newcomers to the squad.

The full squad is:

Goalkeepers: Martin Cook (West Adel.), Bruce James (Blacktown), Andrew Robert Wheatley (Blacktown), Mike O'Shea (St George), Tony Henderson and Mark Jankovics (Marconi), Mark Pullen and Arno Bertogna (Lichfield), Steve Blair, Bobby Russell and Alan Davidson (all St. Mel's), Steve Hogg (Bris. Lions); midfielders: Gary Byrne and George Christopoulos (Can.), Tony Brennan, Jim Campbell (Heidelberg), Peter Raskopoulos, Peter Katholos and Marshall Soper (all Svd. Olympic), Phil O'Connor (Wollongon), John Kosmina and David Mitchell (Svd. City).

Scheinfug was impressed by Ken Murphy's performance in the NSL's 2-0 victory over a Victorian State League selection at Olympic Park last Wednesday.

"He's an excellent player. Very explosive. I like him a lot and I want to see more of him," Scheinfug said.

Murphy was bought by Hellas for about \$20,000 from Melbourne Croatia as a star of the season.

He is a regular State representative.

Scheinfug was impressed also by Doug Brown, who scored a spectacular goal for the NSL, and said he would ask for regular reports about Brown.

The coaches advising Scheinfug in Melbourne are Tony Bogg (Morwell Falcons), Rale Basic (Hellas), Bobby McLachlan (J.U.S.T.) and State Coach Tim White.

Scheinfug regards them all as extremely shrewd coaches and has a good rapport with all of them.

"My aim is to spend periods of about a week in major centres to live, sleep and eat with the players so that I can assess them fully," Scheinfug said.

"Perhaps when, say, the Victorian State team is preparing for a big match, I could be part of the preparation, as assistant to the State coach."

"I hope that the various State teams will start training on a weekly basis. The States will have to shoulder this type of responsibility to assist national selection."

Scheinfug has reinclined Bobby Russell of Hellas for the camp from March 21, perhaps an indication that Scheinfug believes he needs a full back to replace Alan Niven of Brisbane Lions. If so, Russell would play right back against England in June, with Alan Davidson switching to left back.

He said also that he was on the lookout for a goalkeeper. He already had a look at Terry Greedy of St George and regards him as highly promising but stresses that older goalkeepers are best. Could it be that he will recall Sydney City's Todd Clarke who played 34 Socceroos games up to 1978?

Scheinfug also is looking for a midfield playmaker and a libero.

Against England, it's likely that Tony Henderson of Marconi will replace David Ratcliffe (St George) as liberero.

"He was dying to come back against New Zealand, but he was a bit overweight then and struggling for form. Let's remember that Henderson was the best player in Australia only three years ago," Scheinfug said.

— LAURIE SCHWAB



Who'll be the stars of season '83?

Everyone has been saying, with good reason, that this promises to be the most entertaining NSW season yet. Teams are eager to attack because they're getting three points for a win instead of two, and most have undergone major changes in playing staff.

But it's up to the players themselves to draw the crowds, and therefore we'll be looking to the big stars of the league.

In my opinion, the major stars are going to be:

DEZ MARTON (St. George) — an intelligent, deadly striker, who was Saints' top scorer with 18 goals last year. He again will be the backbone of the team in 1983. He's very fit and sharp, so I don't think his age will worry him. He sizes up opponents very shrewdly and knows what he's going to do with the ball even before he gets it. He's extremely confident and composed, and when the going gets too tough up front, he generally drops back into midfield where he's just as damaging.

RICKY HERBERT (Sydney

KAT'S CORNER with PETER KATHOLOS



end's matches, and he's represented Australia 30 times.

TOMMY MCCULLOCH (Marconi) — The captain of the national youth team, rewarded by Marconi coach Doug Collins with a regular midfield position in the senior team. He's a great player, composed and disciplined and very direct. He plays good, accurate passes and he's a superb team man.

ARNO BERTOGNA (APIA) — a truly dynamic defender, who transferred recently from Wollongong. He takes responsibility for all facets of play, defending strongly — especially in the air — and then moving forward to help build attacks. He's also very dangerous around the box when he goes up for free kicks or corners.

PAUL KAY (Sydney City) — just joined the Slickers, and he's determined to make a big impression so that he is included in the national team. He's just spent about two years with Charlton Athletic in England, training every day as a full professional, so he's bound to be even better than he was in 1981, when he was judged Australia's best player in the World Youth Championships.

JOHN PATIKAS (Sydney Olympic) — has been getting all kinds of wrap. They've been describing him as a Baby Charlton in the making and Tommy Docherty has tipped him to be snapped up by European scouts after the World Youth finals in June. He scored 10 goals for Sydney City before joining Olympic early this year, and is probably the No. 1 guy in the national youth team.

PHIL O'CONNOR (Wollongong) — Scored 17 goals for APIA 26 for St. George and 16 for Wollongong. He is a star for Australia. What else can you say? In short, he's headed for another big year.

When he's in form, there's not a defender in the country who can stop him. Only trouble is, he may have to carry Wollongong on his own shoulders.

MARSHALL SOPER (Sydney

Olympic) — Tremendously strong, aggressive in the air, very skilful and fast, and as determined as a bulldozer. Soper will score heaps of goals for Olympic, just as he did for APIA where he notched 25 in two seasons.

Up-and-coming to watch are: Frank Farina (Camberwell), Rod Brown (Marconi), Tony Dakos, Gary Phillips, Tony Patals (Olympic), Oscar Cetina (South Melbourne) and Paul Wormley (West Adelaide).

I've just opened my first business venture — Peter Katholos Sports, 259 Marrickville Road, Marrickville, phone (02) 568 3656.

If you're after soccer gear of any kind, drop in. I'll help you out.

Marconi gets rock-solid sponsorship

By PETER SCOTT

If Marconi's performance in this year's national soccer league is more solid than before, then maybe it is because the Italian club is trying to emulate its new sponsor's reputation.

As of last weekend's first round, the Fairfielders have the financial backing of the Gypsum Products Group of industrial glass CSR.

As club president Fausto Ferrari joyfully told us, the new deal is bringing \$25,000 of hard cash into the Marconi kitty. And that's all.

"Approximately another \$10,000 in fringe benefits will most likely be available as soon as the loose ends of the deal are finalised," he said.

"This awaits the return from Japan of the sponsor's manager, David Irons, and will be announced at a special function for the media and all our friends."

Strangely but perhaps not surprisingly in the current difficult economic climate, the deal was not clinched by high-powered professional public relations.

It was brought about through the involvement of a long-standing Marconi club member, Charlie Morabito, who, through his business, has established and nurtured an excellent relationship with CSR.

Mr. Ferrari emphasised the significance of the sponsorship which is CSR's first involvement on a seasonal basis with sport.

The company's only other sporting connection, according to Mr. Ferrari, is the promotion of an annual Australia-Japan golf tourney.

The deal is initially for one season with options for extension by CSR beyond 1983.

"Marconi will do everything within its power to give our sponsor value for money on and off the soccer field," Mr. Ferrari promised.

CSR's sponsorship replaces Datsun's involvement as the main corporate supporter of Marconi.

Trueman sends Croatia through

By WALTER PLESS

Croatia-Glenorchy and Olympia won their opening matches at Grove Road on Wednesday night in the pre-season Cup competition in southern Tasmania. Croatia defeated Caledonians 2-1 and Olympia beat last season's State League champion, Rapid-Wrest Point, 1-0.

In the evening's other fixture, Taroona-St. Mirren and Hobart City played a 2-2 draw. Di Tommaso and Cavarretta were the City scorers, while the father and son combination of C. and W. Bishop scored Taroona's goals.

Neither Croatia nor Olympia looked impressive in victory. Croatia looked sharp at times but was never able to convert its superiority into goals. Derek Trueman opened the scoring in the 16th minute for Croatia when he headed home from close range after Nunn's free kick was flicked on to him.

Caledonians were on level terms two minutes into the second half following a cross from the right by Bell. Smith, the Croatia goalkeeper, seemed to have the ball covered but then inexplicably palmed it into his own net!

Poor defensive play by Caledonians saw Huigslot score the winner with 20 minutes remaining. The lanky centre-back moved up for a corner and rammed the ball home after he was left unmarked at the far post.

The Rapid versus Olympia game looked as if it would peter out into a goalless draw until Tommy Wilson made a fatal error 10 minutes after the interval. He gave the ball away to Sheraman on the edge of the Rapid penalty area and the Olympia striker ran in and pushed it past Kannegger for the only goal of the game.

Both sides had a number of excellent scoring chances but a combination of bad luck and bad shooting prevented a score. Olympia can be thankful for winning the two points although its victory was tarnished somewhat by the loss of young Tarros with a bad shoulder injury near the end.

Rapid, on the other hand, might consider itself rather unlucky to have come out of this game without even a point.

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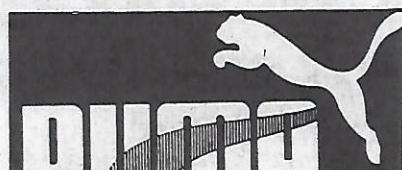
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Croatia threat to Ajax, five in relegation battle?

Melbourne Croatia looms as Green Gully Ajax's major threat as the green and whites start their campaign this weekend to win a third successive Victorian State League championship.

With Tommy Cumming back, and coach John Gardiner ready to strike on the transfer market and sign a couple of players, Croatia looks like the main opponent to the fluent, well drilled Ajax machine.

Morwell Falcons, Croydon and Juventus could vie for third and fourth spots in the top four and qualification for the end-of-season State League Cup competition.

The relegation issue is hazy. Box Hill, Ringwood, Wilhelmina, Northcote, Albion and Doncaster are being freely tipped to struggle. I'm not as sure as some of the other so-called experts.

DOVETON v. WILHELMINA Waratah Reserve, Sunday, 3 pm

As we went to press Wilhelmina was trying to finalise the signing of Alan Pongrac from Croydon while Doveton was making a last ditch for Frankston City midfielder Billy Butcher.

Transfer listed Wilhelmina's Scottish striker Alan McKenna is expected to arrive later this week in time for the clash between the two newcomers to State League.

McKenna, 21, has five Scottish youth team caps. He has creased and has played with Millwall and Birmingham Rangers. He's a tall, aggressive youngster, just the type of player needed to boost the quality of the Hillmen's squad.

Scott Patterson could stay at Wembley Park. His pending move to Preston Makedonia fell through. He's recovering from a knee injury and should be fit to start training next week. If so, negotiations for his stay at Box Hill will commence.

Wilhelmina has lost John Luyten to Springvale, Billy de Graaf, possibly to Wollongong and Joe Carroll to Footscray J.U.S.T.

The Dutch sponsored club however has signed former Manchester United, Sydney Olympic and Croydon striker David Cork, 24, a visa player. Brian Caddle and Gary van Leuverden, from the reserves, have been promoted to the first team squad. Forward Guy Bakker has been signed from Frankston.

New defender Eddie Pena from Blacktown, looks likely to partner Dave Brooks in the centre of Wilhelmina's defence.

Wilhelmina still is keen to sign defender or midfielder Peter Denridder from Croydon. Craig White has joined from Kew City.

The Doves have lost Steve Irvine to Croydon, Jim Train to Falcons, Lou Ivanoff to Frankston Pines, Alan Quin to Sandringham and Warren Spink to the Australian Institute of Sport.

Midfielder Howard Andrew, ex-South Melbourne Hellas and Melbourne Croatia, may join Springvale City.

Doveton expects Scottish import Graham Watson to arrive within a fortnight. The 22 year old striker spent three years with Glasgow Rangers. He's currently playing for Renfrew Juniors.

Doveton hopes that Andy Millar from Melbourne will be able to fill the gaping defensive hole left by Train's departure to Falcons. Millar was signed last week for a \$550 transfer fee.

Once again Doveton's striking fortunes lie at the feet of Ian Stirtton and Stan Webster. This duo played an integral role in Doveton's successful fight to avoid relegation last year.

In last year's corresponding fixture at Waratah Reserve, Doveton thumped Wilhelmina 7-0 with Stirtton scoring four and Webster three goals. Even the most diehard Doveton fan



Tommy Cumming

wouldn't predict a similar result judging by the team's dismal Buffalo Cup effort.

However the Doves played

many youngsters in the cup.

Now it's bread and butter time

and Doveton should gain its

first win of the league season

at Wilhelmina's expense.

FAWKNER v. BOX HILL Jukes Road, Sunday, 3 pm

Scottish striker Alan McKenna is expected to arrive later this week in time for the clash between the two newcomers to State League.

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These are just some of the questions McArthur must answer before Sunday's Clash.



by captain Steve McCombe and sweeper Ian Dobson, Falcons can emerge triumphant.

Will o' the wisp McGuinness, Victorian Rothmans Medal winner in 1980, is an outstanding opportunist and a deadly finisher.

Victorian soccer fans won't have seen much of former Brisbane Lions midfielder Alan MacLean, what a treat they have in store!

Falcons will adopt a 4-4-2 formation on Sunday, if their attempt to sign Hellas striker Alan Evans, fails. If Evans plays then he'll be used as the target man for McGuinness with Mitten taking on a wide, attacking role.

Croydon's new Scottish import, Joe Sweeney, will get an inhospitable welcome to State League from Falcons captain John Higham, former Liverpool and Preston Makedonia defender.

Higham's aggression is an integral part of Falcon's defensive make-up. Sweeper Sandy Irvine, right back Grant Smart and left back Jim Train are the others who have to cope with Croydon's forwards.

A sidelight to the game will be the clash between Train and Steve Irvine, team mates at Doveton last year.

With Sweeney and Irvine joining Croydon, coach Bill McMillan has pleasing selection problems. Should he play with four up front? Or push Peter Loughnane deep into a right sided midfield role in place of Mark Brown who performed well in the Buffalo Cup? Is Ian Loughnane match fit enough to play?

These are just some of the questions McArthur must answer before Sunday's Clash.

S.M. HELLAS v. NORTHCOTE Middle Park, Saturday, 2.45 pm

Our panel of tipsters heavily favour home team South Melbourne Hellas but I'll stick my neck out and go for a draw. I'm betting that Northcote's two Northern Irish imports, stopper John Cross and goalkeeper "Rocky" Tachiris and a much improved midfield will at least get the Northerners a point here.

The Northern Irishmen arrived last Friday and their credentials suggest that they greatly will add to the quality of Northcote's first team.

Both came from Crusaders in the Irish League. Jeff Gordon, 29, is a full back. Mark Wilson, 21, is a defensive midfielder who has been capped for the Northern Ireland under-21s.

Northcote has lost interest in the ex-dissident Hellas striker Duncan Cummings.

As we went to press Northcote had switched its attention to Hellas striker Alan Evans. It was having a battle on its hands to sign the former Liverpool star as Heidelberg and Morwell Falcons also are reported to be keen on him. It is believed that Evans' transfer fee should be left with Hellas, will be no more than \$5000.

Northcote signed goalkeeper Tachiris from Sunshine George Cross late last week for \$2000. The young second string with the Northerners and he'll be vying with another young, promising keeper, John Giannopoulos, for the number one custodian's role.

Steve Kakantos of Hellas impressed me as a sweeper in the recent Buffalo Cup competition. He'll have rugged

Croydon Park on Sunday.

Falcons are one of the most exciting attacking outfits in State League. Even against the solid Croydon defence, led

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

George Hannah in front of him which enables Chris Kalafatis to be used either as a full back or midfielder by coach Jim Armstrong.

ALBION ROVERS v. MELB. CROATIA

Selwyn Park,
Sunday, 3 pm

Croatia rightly will go into this clash with trepidation, despite the size of the Selwyn Park pitch and the home side's competitiveness, and should win.

Croatia president Joe Slijar is confident of winning the State League championship now that John Gardiner is at the coaching helm and Tommy Cumming is back in action.

As we went to press Croatia and Ajax were close to reaching an agreement on a transfer fee for Gardiner. Initially, Ajax placed \$5000 on Gardiner's head. The VSF Appeal Board cut the fee to \$3000. Gardiner accepted the \$500 fee stand.

I believe however, that a former high ranking Croatia official has had an earnest conversation with Ajax president Guy Spieter and treasurer Arnold Langer and Ajax may accept an offer of \$3800. Hellas will be set an offer.

Albion is set to lose Andy McMillan to Frankston Pines as we went to press. It already has lost Kevin Lloyd and John Crean and was waiting for Gary Cullen to find another club so that a vacant vacancy could be created for Hellas' left sided attacking player Eddie Gray.

Albion still is trying to sign Ron McIvor from Preston Makedonia but Makedonia's reported asking price of \$3500 was proving prohibitive.

Kenny Smart is back in training and could play on Sunday, as could Charlie Spieter who has resolved a dispute with the club.

Mike D'Sylva, Peter Dickson and Keiron Coyle probably will be given the task of trying to find a way through to the draw. I'm betting that Northcote's two Northern Irish imports, stopper John Cross and goalkeeper "Rocky" Tachiris and a much improved midfield will at least get the Northerners a point here.

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Laurie Schwab	Peter Desira	Craig McKenzie	Tim White	Bob Brian	Lee Showrock
Hellas v Northcote	Hellas	Hellas	Drew	Hellas	Hellas
Sun-G.C. v Juventus	Juventus	Juventus	Juventus	Juventus	Juventus
Croydon v Morwell	Croydon	Drew	Morwell	Croydon	Croydon
Devonport v Rywood W.	Devonport	Devonport	Devonport	Rywood W.	Rywood W.
Polonia v G.G. Ajax	Ajax	Ajax	Ajax	Ajax	Ajax
Albion v Croatia	Croatia	Croatia	Croatia	Croatia	Croatia
Fawcett v Box Hill	Fawcett	Fawcett	Drew	Drew	Drew



Rob Cullen

will use a 4-2-4 formation against Juventus with McGorian and Morrey the wide, flanking strikers and Pate linking up with Carl Gilder in a more central striking role.

Juventus has strengthened last year's squad by the inclusion of striker Kevin Lloyd from Albion, midfielder Billy Rivers from Hellas and stopper

Paul Drinovszky from Frankston City. Peter Donaldson, who did a fine job as stopper last year, was placed on the transfer list last week.

Juventus coach John Margaritis will be travelling to Chaplin Reserve, confident of collecting both points. I see no reason to doubt such confidence. Juve should win.

POLONIA v G.G. AJAX

Raleigh Reserve,
Sunday, 3 pm

Mike Lynn makes his State League coaching debut here.

The VSF fixtures committee certainly didn't show any sympathy for Lynn by pitting his Polonia side against State League champion Green Gully.

Lynn, though, is optimistic about facing up to Ajax.

"We'll surprise quite a few people on Sunday, especially the Ajax players," he said.

Polonia finalised the \$1500 transfer of stopper Danny

McCluskey from Kew City last Friday. McCluskey, ex-Hellas, Albion and Frankston City, is reported to be improving his fitness rapidly and should be an excellent signing for Polonia.

If he plays on Sunday he probably will be given the job of marking Ajax ace Bobby Toal, signed from Sunshine George Cross for \$4500 earlier this year. Croatia and Heidelberg United must be kicking themselves for allowing Ajax to beat them to the punch and sign Toal.

Paul Lewis, winner of our Ametco Travel State League Top Scorer award last season, could be marked Andy Czernik.

Our Ametco Travel State League Player of the Year for 1982, Stefan Mila, will be sweeper on Sunday and has the crucial role of giving good cover to the markers for Toal and Lewis.

Polonia's full backs probably will push well forward in support of Polonia's strike force, comprising gigantic Alex Marshall, Janusz Przybyla and Brendan Lakic.



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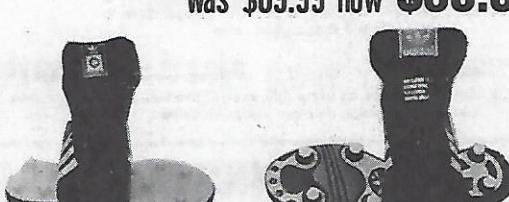
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The depleted Sydney City team that beat Brisbane Lions 2-0 last Sunday, from left, standing: E. Thomson (coach), G. Gomez, I. Brisco, T. Pasman, A. Robertson, S. O'Connor, J. Koemine, B. Ferry (physiotherapist). Front: G. Lee, J. Watson, J. Cant, W. Murray, K. Mullin, K. Boden. Picture by CARLOS PICASSO.

NATIONAL LEAGUE STANDINGS

	HOME	AWAY	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Gls	Pts
PRESTON-MAKEDONIA.....	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	1	4	1	0	0	3	3
HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER.....	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	3
SYD-CITY HAKOAH.....	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	3	3
WEST ADEL. HELLAS.....	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	3
St. George Budapest.....	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	3
Canberra City.....	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	2	2	0	3	3
Adel. City Juventus.....	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	3	3
Sth Melb. Hellas.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Brisbane City.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Marconi-Datsun.....	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
Wollongong.....	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
Newcastle KB Utd.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Sydney Olympic.....	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
APIA-Leichhardt.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	0
Brisbane Lions.....	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Footscray JUST.....	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0

BEST PLAYER VOTING

FOOTSCRAY JUST 1 (Macleod) PRESTON MAKEDONIA 4 (Ollerton, 2, Ward, Campbell) at Schineller Reserve. Crowd about 4000. Votes by Laurie Schwab:

6. Ollerton (Mak), 5. Lucchesi (Mak), 4. Carroll (JUST), 3. Ozdakov (Mak), 2. Ward (Mak), 1. Campbell (Mak).

WOLLONGONG 1 (O'Connor) BRISBANE CITY 1 (Willis own goal) at Ziema Park. Crowd about 1400. Votes by Phillips McNaught:

6. Tokel (BC), 5. Murray (BC), 4. Liddell (BC), 3. O'Connor (WV), 2. McBreen (WV), 1. Dunleavy (WV).

BRISBANE LIONS 0 SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH 2 (Gomez, Koemine) at Richlands. Crowd about 1200. Votes by Ricky Rose:

6. Gomez (BC), 5. Murray (BC), 4. Sime (BL), 3. Stewart (BL), 2. Koemine (SC), 1. Hunter (BL).

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0 WEST ADELIADE HELLAS 1

(McCulloch) SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 1 (Egan) at Marconi Stadium. Crowd 2858. Votes by Alex Vesic:

6. Murphy (SM), 5. Henderson (M), 4. Hofford (SM), 3. Misler (M), 2. Rizzotto (M), 1. Xanthopoulos (SM).

MARCONI-DATSUN 1 (McCulloch) SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 1 (Egan) at Marconi Stadium. Crowd 2858. Votes by Alex Vesic:

6. Murphy (SM), 5. Henderson (M), 4. Hofford (SM), 3. Misler (M), 2. Rizzotto (M), 1. Xanthopoulos (SM).

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0 WEST ADELIADE HELLAS 1

(Heys) at Lambert Park. Crowd 5010. Votes by Charlie Spiter:

6. McCaskey (WA), 5. Crook (WA), 4. Katholos (SO), 3. Patikas (SO), 2. Dunn (WA), 1. Honeyman (WA).

ST. GEORGE BUDAPEST 1 (K. Wilson) NEWCASTLE KB UTD 0 St. George Stadium. Crowd 2150. Votes by Peter Scott:

6. Gosling (N), 5. Ratcliffe (St.G), 4. Maier (N), 3. Stone (St.G), 2. Jones (N), 1. H. Tredinnick (N).

ADELIADE CITY JUVENTUS 2 (Maxwell 2) CANBERRA CITY 1 (Redmond 1) at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 2803. Votes by Mino Touladis:

6. Maxwell (AC), 5. Hozowski (C), 4. Farina (C), 3. Maha (AC), 2. T. Byrne (C), 1. Miller (AC).

WEST ADELIADE HELLAS 1 (McCulloch) SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 1 (Egan) at Marconi Stadium. Crowd 2858. Votes by Alex Vesic:

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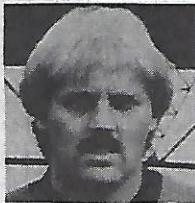
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SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0 WEST ADELIADE HELLAS 1

(McCulloch) SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 1 (Egan) at Marconi Stadium. Crowd 2858. Votes by Alex Vesic

Ollerton gets two, Lujic at left back



Peter Ollerton



Claude Lucchesi



Gary Ward

MURPHY MAN OF THE MATCH

Marconi 1
SM-Hellas 1

*Stadium: Marconi.
Crowd: 2858.
Referee: Doug Rennie 8.
Goals: McCullough (M), Egan (SM).*

MARCONI: Maher 8, Degney 7, Riccardi 6, Henderson 6, Ward 7, McCullough 7, Davies 6, Sermanni 6, Hunter 6 (Djordjevic 57th — 8), Brown 5, Lekats 6.

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS: Leumets 7, Russell 6, Xanthopoulos 7, Blair 7, Davidson 7, Holford 8, Murphy 9, Crino 5 (Buljevic 85), Woodfin 6, Brown 6, Egan 6.

While the visitors looked sluggish during the first period, they were also far more dangerous and could easily have scored a few goals. Allan Maher made a brilliant save, diving at the feet of Crino in the 8th minute and followed with an interception of a cross by Doug Brown, snatching the ball from the feet of Charlie Egan.

Marconi's goal, which came after only two minutes and was scored by Tommy McCullough after a corner kick from the right, was cancelled by Egan after 27 minutes. Bobby Russell went to the edge of Marconi's penalty area, crossed and Egan was on hand to tap it past Maher.

Despite the chances which came Hellas's way, Marconi looked faster and certainly a better bet for the second 45



Alex Vesic

minutes. However, Hellas had other ideas. From the kickoff they slipped into fourth gear and within 10 minutes had four chances to score.

Doug Brown's header just cleared the bar, Murphy hit the crossbar, then again that man Marconi saved a brilliant shot from a point-blank header by Blair and Holford came close with his header only metres

away from goal. This time Maher was beaten but the ball grazed the upright.

In the 71st minute Egan should have scored. Ken Murphy's pass put Egan into the clear and Maher looked beaten but a shot from Egan finished well over the bar.

A last-ditch effort to alter the scoreline was made by coach Rale Rasic, who introduced Branko Buljevic, the 1974 Soccerco, to his line-up in place of Oscar Crino. Only two minutes after his introduction and with two minutes to go Buljevic cleverly put Alan Davies on the run and Maher came a close second while Xanthopoulos and Blair had useful games.

The shock inclusion of John Davies baffled most observers. Davies was on ONE WEEK'S TEAM OF THE WEEK and Marconi's defence was put to the test again.

So the game ended in a draw, leaving Hellas to ponder about the lost chances, while

Footy. JUST 1
Makedonia 4
*Venue: Schlierer Reserve,
Footscray.
Scorers: Ollerton 10th &
76th, Ward 28th, Campbell
75th (Mak); Macleod 44th
(JUST).*

*Crowd: About 4000.
Referee: Chris Brumbridge.
Cautions: Ollerton, Lucchesi
(Mak), Hazeborn (JUST).*

FOOTSCRAY JUST: Boland

6 — Hazeborn 5, O'Reilly 6,

Kondaros 6, Lujic 6 — Tutil 6,

Kyriakoulessis 6, Ilioski 6 —

Simic 7, Carroll 8, Macleod 6
(Curovic 81st).

PRESTON MAKEDONIA:

Wilson 8 — Opasinas 7, Todorovski 6, Jones 8, Petrovski 8

— Ollerton 9 (Farell 62nd),

McMillan 8, Ozdakov 8 —

Lucchesi 9, Ward 8, Campbell

8 —

**Simek 7, Carroll 8, Macleod 6
(Curovic 81st).**

PRESTON MAKEDONIA:

Wilson 8 — Opasinas 7, Todorovski 6, Jones 8, Petrovski 8

— Ollerton 9 (Farell 62nd),

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Lucchesi 9, Ward 8, Campbell

8 —

Peter Ollerton joined

Doug Brown as Makedonia's all-time top NSL

scorer by notching two in

this game to bring his total

to 18 since the start of 1981.

By including himself in the team ahead of Alan Whittle and newcomer Alex Livingstone, Ollerton was taking a bit of a risk, since he was being criticised by the fans over Makedonia's loss to Hellas the previous week.

Peter Ollerton scored against his former club, JUST, as he was doing, but also took advantage of non-existent marking by JUST to emerge as one of the outstanding players of the game. The other was forward Claude Lucchesi.

As for JUST, it still hopes to sign New Zealand captain Alan Booth from West Adelaide, but the decision to use Zdravko Lujic as left back in the first half proved disastrous.

And if Jim Kondaros doesn't like staying in defence he's got a different idea in the first half, not let him play in midfield and use Kyri Kyriakoulessis as stopper? It probably would solve a few problems.

REASON FOR THE VICTORY: Ollerton, George McMillan and Zarko Ozdakov gave Makedonia devastating dominance in midfield — through their own good play certainly, but also because of the ineffectiveness of the JUST midfielders. The same applied to the JUST defence where Lucchesi murdered Lujic, Ward as he liked against Kondaros, and George Campbell, after a quiet start, terrorised Igor Hazeborn in the second half. JUST countered all that with only one effective player, Joe Carroll, but his best efforts — and a great header by Paul Simic — were dealt with capably by goalkeeping Richard Wilson who had a faultless game.

THE TACTICS: JUST coach Bobby McLachlan worked most of the tactical ploys, and all of them were flop. He left out right back Slobodan Stojcevski, switched Igor Hazeborn from left back to right back and moved Zdravko Lujic from the wing to left back where he played a few seasons ago under the then coach, Cedo Cirkovic. Kyri Kyriakoulessis played as a defensive mid-fielder-cum-double-stopper, leaving Graham Tutil and Zoran Ilioski as the only mobile midfielders, with Mark Carroll in the middle of the front. Against all that, Makedonia simply played its usual game, albeit with personnel changes. Ollerton was in midfield in place of Whittle, McMillan was pulled back to midfield from his usual attacking role, and Claude Lucchesi

Laurie Schwab

came in to partner Ward in the striking role. Lucchesi, Ollerton and especially Ward set the scene for this easy victory by doing most of the damage in the first half. JUST had 20 minutes of improved play after half-time, during which a towering header by Simic almost levelled the score.

THE GOALS: 10th min: Ilioski Petrovski swings a diagonal cross from the right, and the JUST defence stands appealing for offside as Ollerton beats two team-mates to the ball and belts it unchallenged past Dennis Boland 1-0.

25th min: Ollerton starts a move down the right with a quick pass to Lucchesi. He crosses to Ward who runs into it and puts it away 2-0.

44th min: Lujic plays a cross from the left, Kondaros doesn't let go and Macleod heads it 2-1.

55th min: Campbell, in the middle outside the area, pushes the ball past an opponent to make space for himself, self, and slots it neatly past Boland 3-1.

76th min: A high ball grazes the head of McMillan and lands past the far post for Ollerton to volley it in from an acute angle 4-1.

THE MOST VALUABLE PLAYER: Peter Ollerton — two goals, intelligent first-time passing, great positioning. Claude Lucchesi was right up there with Ollerton.

COACHES' COMMENTS: Bobby McLachlan (JUST), on his decision to use Lujic at left back: "Last time we played Makedonia, Ian Opasinas marked Lujic throughout the game and Lujic hardly got a kick. Opasinas was going to do that again today, so we looked at ways of giving Lujic more space. The committee people said Lujic had not played brilliantly in left back in the past, and Lujic himself was delighted at being given the position. Unfortunately, it didn't work, but then there was a hell of a lot that didn't work. Ollerton wasn't picked up at all in midfield, and neither were Lucchesi and Ward up front."

Peter Ollerton (Makedonia): "We lacked fight and commitment against Hellas last week, and that's why I decided to play myself. I was more inspired this time. The boys really let me have it. I was happy with all of them — Lucchesi, Ward, McMillan, Ozdakov, you can take your pick. They all played very well. Now we've still got Alex Livingstone to fit into the team. It's not a bad problem to have."

APIA will discover, I am sure, that Mariani has few peers in one particular position. He has many good years of soccer ahead of him, and I wish him well.

One of the most heart-breaking jobs in my business is to tell a player that for one reason or another, he is not needed anymore — particularly a player who has served his club faithfully over a long period. Unfortunately, I have had to do this regularly over the past 18 years.

Alan Evans is an idol at Hellas and a nice gentleman you couldn't hope to meet, but I had to tell him recently that we wouldn't be able to use him.

We had a long, frank talk and I was delighted by the professional way in which he accepted the situation.

The same applied to John Stevenson and George Campbell.

With Campbell, the problem was that we had three left-flank, left-footed players. The one who had to go was the one with market value. That was Campbell, because there's not enough money about to buy Steve Woodfin. When he's injured, Branko Buljevic will slot into Woodfin's role.

No player wants to leave Hellas. It's a big popular club that looks after its players very well financially, but the belt tolls for everyone sooner or later, and guys like Evans, Stevenson and Campbell have the character, the maturity and professionalism to take it like men and to stay in there, punching. I'm sure all three will continue to make a big impression with new clubs.

RALE RASIC

'Sweatball'
must end!

When will the federations finally realise that it's downright dangerous to ask players to perform in the soaring heat we've been having in the past couple of months?

We've had experience galore in this matter, yet we don't learn from it.

Soccer's not the only transgressor, of course. South Sydney Rugby League club has an oxygen tank on the sideline, in case players collapse. Are we prepared to accept this sort of risk without taking steps to eliminate it?

Perhaps we should start training our players not for soccer, but the way astronauts train.

The solution to the hot-weather lunacy is quite simple. Let's get the medical professional involved. Medicos should be part of an expert committee set up specifically to rule on the type of weather that is too dangerous for heavy exertion.

I was pleased to see that Bertie Mariani has started a new chapter in his career by switching to APIA.

Mariani grew up at Marconi and probably never would have left, had he not been told to. However, I still think he could have been valuable to Marconi. Over the years, I don't think he has been encouraged enough.

APIA will discover, I am sure, that Mariani has few peers in one particular position. He has many good years of soccer ahead of him, and I wish him well.

One of the most heart-breaking jobs in my business is to tell a player that for one reason or another, he is not needed anymore — particularly a player who has served his club faithfully over a long period. Unfortunately, I have had to do this regularly over the past 18 years.

Alan Evans is an idol at Hellas and a nice gentleman you couldn't hope to meet, but I had to tell him recently that we wouldn't be able to use him.

We had a long, frank talk and I was delighted by the professional way in which he accepted the situation.

The same applied to John Stevenson and George Campbell.

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Les Scheinflug

itation for the national youth team to visit Indonesia next month. The reason given by McCann is that the tour would further deprive clubs of key players in league competition.

The Indonesian FA had proposed three games in Jakarta — one against the Indonesian national team which is pre-

pared for the Asian Games —

and two against regional selec-

tions. The FA was willing to pay for accommodation and meals, and pay half the air fare.

The tour could have taken

the place of one of the training

campus planned for the youth team. The training camp after all, will deprive the clubs of

their players anyway.

Now the youth team and the senior national team are to

play a double-header against

opponents yet to be selected, probably Olympic Park in Melbourne.

In Australia, meanwhile, has

been invited to Singapore to

defend the Merlion Cup it won

last year. McCann said the

Socceroos would go providing

the Cup competition is shifted

from September to October so as not to clash with local com-

petitions. The ASF has de-

clined an invitation to contest

the Merdeka Cup in Kuala

Lumpur in September.

— LAURIE SCHWAB

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KB denied a penalty

**St George 1
Newcastle 0**

Venue: St George Stadium.
Crowd: 2150.
Scorer: K. Wilson (85th min).

Referee: Rampley 6.
ST GEORGE BUDAPEST: Greedy 6, Skeen 6, Ratcliffe 6, Barton 6, R. O'Shea 6, Stone 6, J. O'Shea 6, Wilkinson 3 (Koska 63 min, 6), K. Wilson 5, Marton 6. Coach: Frank Aron.

N E W C A S T L E K B
UNITED: Gosling 7, Maier 6, Watson 6, Bourke 6, H. Tredinnick 6, Mason 6, Senkaliski 5, Buckley 5 (Drystall 70 min), Jones 6, Mountford 6, Lowe 5. Coach: Ken Kaiser.
Cautions: Ratcliffe (ST G). O'Shea (ST G).

Newcastle was badly let down by the poor finishing of its players when in match-winning situations.

St George Budapest didn't display much of its renowned, stylish patterns and it was somehow fitting that the winning goal was as much the result of defensive blunders as of thoughtful attack.

With only about five minutes left to play and the match heading for a goalless draw, Don Macleod floated in a corner kick from the left, which was deflected by the KB goalie, Clint Gosling.

It was nodded down by Ken Wilson and some was pushed into the net by David Ratcliffe, but Ratcliffe said afterwards he hadn't touched it.

Hard running, hard tackling, combined with rather primitive technical skills and team work, ensured Newcastle had a good share of the ball, especially in the first half - without doing much with it. The nearest we came to a goal before the changeover was courtesy of the Saints in the 30th minute.

Mark Barton steamed in to let go a magnificent first-time volley, only to see Gosling pull off a brilliant reflex save from point-blank range.

Four minutes into the second half David Lowe found himself in the open after getting past Mike O'Shea and even eluding the advancing Greedy, but somehow managed to miss an easy conversion.

Arks' men lived up after young Andrew Kocza was given his chance to shine, at the expense of the insipid Paul Wilkinson.

In the 68th minute he quickly seized the opportunity of grabbing a silly backpass from Peter Bourke, only to watch as his finicky lob was tipped over the bar by a desperately stretching Gosling.

With only about 15 minutes left, the Hungarians had was something to be lucky to avoid a penalty kick against them.

Referee Rampley ignored his linesman's flag signalling a blatant KB offside situation, leaving Nigel Drysdale steaming at full speed for the goal.

Mike O'Shea lunged after the KB replacement and pulled him down, with the visitors hotly claiming that the offence was inside the box.

Rambley awarded a free-kick right on the 16 metre line.

He also failed to at least issue a caution to O'Shea for a foul which may have cost Newcastle three points.

Hellas cup

The 1983 South Melbourne Hellas Schoolboys Cup has attracted 25 entrants who will vie for \$1,000 prizemoney, \$750 to the sports fund of the winning school and \$250 to the runner-up.

The competition gets under way on Wednesday, April 13. Here is the draw for the first round of games:

St. Bedes' Mentone v John Paul (Frankston); Mt. Lylah v Aquinas; Mt. Scopus v Kingswood; St. Leo v Emmaus; St. Pauls (Altona) v St. Albans; CBA v St. Kilda; St. Kilda (Braeside); Heidelberg High v Lalor North High; Camberwell High v Caulfield High; Murrumbeena High BYE; Huntingdale High v Oakleigh Tech; Clayton Tech v Springvale High; St. Kilda High v Salesian College (Chadstone); St. Johns (Dandenong) v Mazzoni.



APIA'S Sebastian Giampaolo (right) lashes a shot goalwards, past Heidelberg stopper Don Macleod. At left is John Spanos. Pictures by LES SHORROCK.

Peter Scott



Heidelberg's Theo Selemidis passes the ball upfield, after Robert Vincent has fallen in a clash with APIA's Arno Bertogna (right). At centre is Mike Valentine.

City still slick, Lions struggle

**Bris. Lions 0
Syd City 2**

Scorers: Gomez 53rd, Kosmina 75th.

Venue: Richlands Stadium.

Crowd: About 1200.

Conditions: Hot.

Referee: Sian Kibbler 6.

LIONS: Lovwells 7, McSkimming 5 (Daut 67th), Marszalek 7, Sims 8, Hunter 7, Niven 6, Hogg 7, Stewart 7, Wright 6, Kelso 7, De Greer 5.

SYDNEY CITY: Pezzano 7, Mullens 7, O'Connor 6, Robertson 7, Bruce 6, Cane 7, Gomez 8, Murray 8 (Lee 76th), Watson 7, Kosmina 7, Boden 6.

A five-man Brisbane Lions defence still did not prove enough to hold reigning national league champion Sydney City, which cruised to a 2-0 win at Richlands Stadium.

And the fact that the champion never really got into top gear and was playing with a patched-up side left ominous pointers to a gloomy season ahead for Lions.

Sydney City went into the match missing Todd Clarke and David Mitchell, both with tonsillitis and Murray Barnes, Paul Kay and Ian Souness with injuries. Barnes was a late withdrawal after he injured a back muscle while climbing a ladder the previous Saturday.

According to advice given to injured Lions captain Col Bennett, new Lions coach Simon Kistemaker, played with twin stoppers and a sweeper. But all were making their national league debuts and eventually were pulled apart by the experienced Sydney City attack of John Kosmina, Ken Boden and Joe Watson.

Former Ipswich United (QLD) defender Alan Marszalek played at sweeper while the stoppers were new Scottish signing John Sims and Queensland youth team player Alister Hunter. Sims was a solid match, winning a lot of balls in the air and making some bone-crunching tackles.

Lions worked to a system where they man-marked the opposition and Sydney City struggled for a time. Although it had more than 70 percent of possession it could make little

headway other than consistently passing the ball through the middle.

But that in itself slowly wore the Lions players down as they became chasers rather than playmakers and in the hot Queensland sun their stamina slowly expired.

Although the system really worked in getting Lions a win, and obviously was aiming for a point, it did keep Sydney City at bay until after half-time. It took the champion 31 minutes before it got a shot on target and that was a weak header from Boden, who never really figured in the match.

Just when Lions looked as if

they might break through and cause an upset, Willie Murray used his skills and acceleration to completely baffle the hapless McSkimming.

Murray then crossed the ball to the unmarked Gomez who finished the move in a neat sideshot into the far side of the goal in the 53rd minute.

McSkimming was beaten a number of times on the right and his distribution was poor which prompted his substitution shortly afterwards. Coach Kistemaker brought on striker Calvin Daut and played without an orthodox stopper which in part led to the next Sydney City goal.

Kosmina proved just too experienced for the young Hunter in the 75th minute when he cleverly turned on the edge of the box. The stopper, now marking a player, it meant there was no cover behind Hunter and once the Australian captain beat the youngster he had only louts to beat. Kosmina made no mistake in slotting the ball away.

At two goals up Sydney City

was content to keep possession and further tire the Lions players by making them chase the ball around the park.

Morton wants to silence the knockers

**Heidelberg 2
APIA 0**

Scorers: Taylor 84m, Vincent 86m.

Ground: Olympic Village.

Attendance: 3500.

Referee: Stuart Mallings 6.

HEIDELBERG: Oliver 7, MacKie 7, MacLeod 7, Yankos 8, Tanser (capt) 6; Taylor 6, Vincent 8, Spanos 6; Valentine 7, Torz 7, Ken Macleod 7.

APIA: LEICHHARDT:

Woodhouse 6; Carter 6, Barnes 8, Mariani 6, Brown 7; Bradley 6, Schermann 7, Butler 6; Tredinnick 6, Valeri 5, Giampaolo (capt) 6. Coach: Phil Bottaficio.

Heidelberg coach Ken Morton

still is talking in terms of challenging for the National League championship and wrote in the club's programme that he is keen to prove wrong the critics who have already written Heidelberg off.

But if he is serious about that he must do something very soon about solving the side's big handicap up front where it is sorely obvious that there is no one capable of knocking goals in regularly.

The club has high hopes that Perry Forster from Tasmanian club Olympia will fit the bill when he comes over for a trial this week. However going on the standard of soccer in Tasmania, one wonders whether the club is expecting too much of the 22-year-old.

THE GOALS: The goal that broke the deadlock came in the 84th minute from a harmless throw-in situation on the left, after Heidelberg had messaged up much easier chances.

The ball fell for John Bradley, who area of the midfield dove far too low over it allowing Mike Valentine to nip in and rob him to send a low centre for Ken Taylor to hit home with a low shot from the edge of the box.

Recent import Robert Vincent sealed the game up two minutes later with a move started and finished by him.

The midfielder ran the ball practically the whole length of the pitch and then exchanged a quick one-two with Juan Torz to slam the return home from the right side of the box.

THE NEAR MISSES: Leichhardt was slightly on top in the first half but only really troubled Jeff Oliver once, when Bradley spotted the keeper off his line and sent over a cross only for the keeper to backpedal quickly and manage to palm the ball over the bar for a corner.

Heidelberg had much clearer chances after the break before scoring the goals. Theo Selemidis latched onto a poor clearance from Terry Butler but his header was put away for a corner; John Spanos hit a left foot shot wide after a clever pass from Torz had put him in the clear, and Mike Valentine wasted a simple chance putting the ball over the bar with only the keeper to beat.

THE TACTICS: Heidelberg was unchanged from the previous week again giving Juan Torz plenty of freedom. The Chilean is very good at setting up chances but rarely ever has to go himself added to Heidelberg's handicap up front. Theo Selemidis battled hard in the first half to come to terms with his front running role but his best position remains in midfield and Heidelberg must do something soon to relieve him of the current uphill battle. At the back Charlie Yankos again gave a commanding display of no frills defensive football and was probably Heidelberg's best player in the second half.

Leichhardt came to Melbourne missing Mark Pullen, Peter James, Ian Gray and the coach's son, all through injuries. New signing Johan Scharmann, the former Australian first division player, dic-

The man-markers master Olympic

By CHARLIE SPITERI

**Syd Olympic 0
West Adel 1**

Stadium: Lambert Park.

Crowd: 6010.

Referee: Tony Boskovic 9.

Scorer: G. Heys.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Wilson 7, Tanser 6, Zarris 6, R. Patikas 6, Patikas 6, Katholos 9, Phillips 7, Soper 5. Coach: Tommy Docherty.

WEST ADELAIDE: Crook 9, McGregor 7, Amis 7, McGachey 9, Dunn 8, Atzales 7, Heys 7, Warmley 7, Honeyman 8, Hearns 6, Brennan 6. Coach: Alan Vest.

Masters of man-to-man marking came to town once more, just to show how effective the system can be.

Star studded Sydney Olympic was reduced to a mere mortal. Five internationals and a host of those who would like to be, could not penetrate once in the entire 90 minutes at Lambert Park.

Instead it was a seventh minute effort by Graham Heys which counted in the end giving the visitors from Adelaide their first three points of the season.

Heys was on hand to intercept a clearance by Olympic's defence, chest it down then slam it back past Peter Wilson.

It was a goal which came against the run of play, but a good goal and in the end the one which decided the issue.

Olympic appeared set for a

win, despite the setback, with its glut of possession and some good movements from midfield.

Peter Raskopoulos and

Peter Katholos looked in command spraying passes all over the pitch with very little penetration and hardly a decent shot at goal.

And while Olympic had the

possession, but had little

chance of threatening Crook,

West Adelaide's forwards, in particular Graham Honeyman and Paul Wormley, looked dangerous.

Soon after the start Westad easily could have gone into a 2-0 lead. Heys took a free kick to worryworth in an ideal goal scoring position but the ball went over the bar much to the relief of Peter Wilson and his defenders.

At the other end, Olympic started to make some inroads and Jim Ziras fired over the bar from a good position, then Jimmy Patikas pushed one through for Katholos who shot over the bar.

Crook came to the fore in the 73rd minute to save what seemed a certain goal. Katholos fired in a cannonball from 16 metres but somehow Australian international keeper managed to get his hands to it.

From then on it was a matter of survival for Westad and the time was ripe for Neil McGachey and Robbie Dunn to stand tall. They held firm in a tightly packed defence for a surprise win to defuse those who predicted an easy victory for Olympic.

Olympic's last chance came after a corner by Katholos. Arthur Zarris, Olympic's replacement, forward headed past Crook, but McGachey was on hand to clear.

Marshall Soper, Olympic's big gun, an expensive purchase from APIA Leichhardt, was reduced to a popgun in this match contributing very little as the 5000 strong crowd pondered over what Olympic had to do next to get back on the road to winning the championship.

I am sure that Tommy Docherty was disappointed when he seemed unworried about the defeat. I also am sure that a few of Olympic's players will be spoken to in no uncertain terms.

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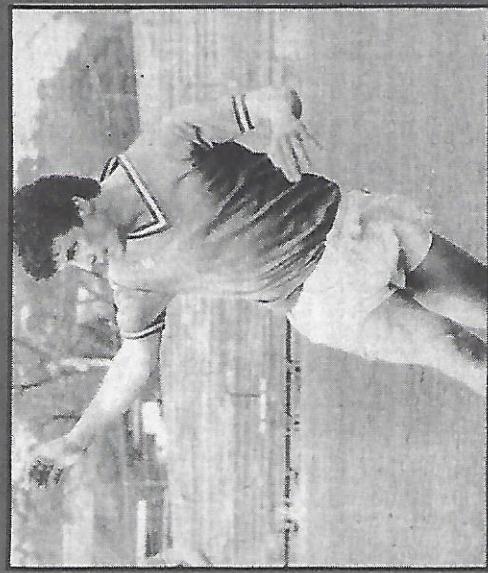
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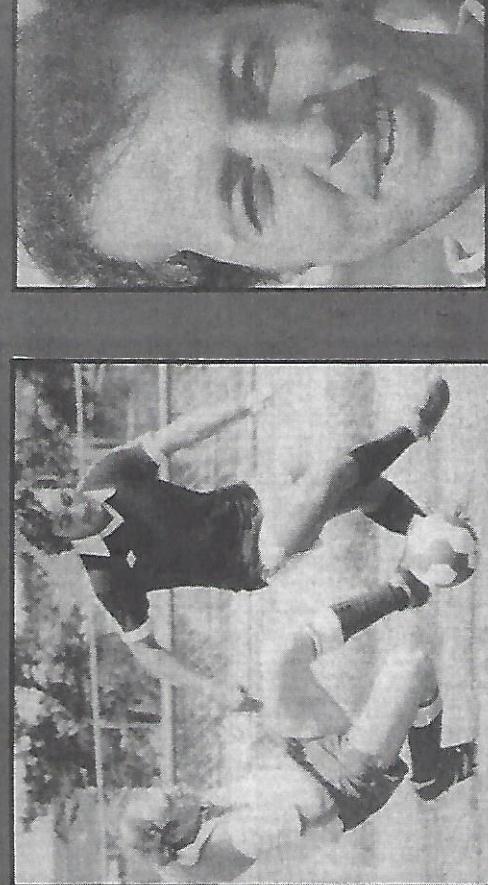
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Northcote Captain George Bozikis



Victorian State League, 1983

Green Guilty V Croydon City

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George Cheesbrough & William... 141

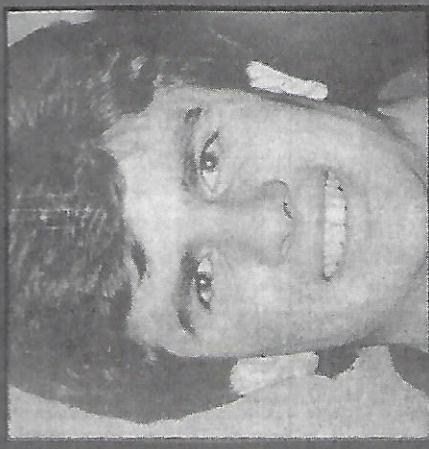
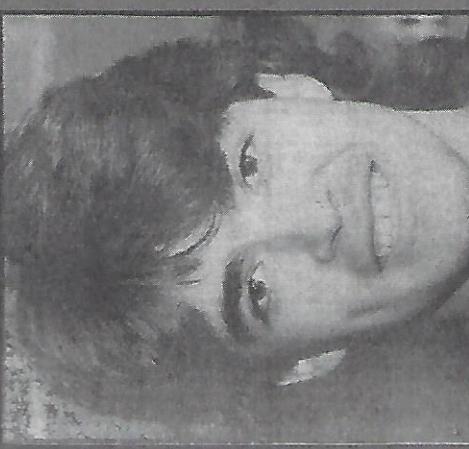
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ROUND FOUR Saturday April 8

Unknown Captain Carlo Sabidus



Pneumonia with aid smoking without lean Risk

Croydon captain Steve McCombe (right) wins a header from from Petalos of Helles (centre). Mike Rainey of Croydon



Democrats who aided attacking mid-term losses

Croydon captain Steve McCombe (right) wins a header from Strom Petasaki of Hellas (centre). Mike Rainey of Croydon



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Spare a thought for Metro First Division club Kew City which has been struck by a massive player exodus this year.

Chris Ogden, Frank MacLeod, Dave Stuart, Graham Williams and maybe Tommy Spalding all have gone to Albion Rovers, along with coach Harry Murray and team manager Joe Docherty who had been in charge of the Kew first team last year.

George Petrov and Danny McCluskey have joined Po-

Wallace, Bennett available

Former Green Gully Ajax midfielder Gordon Wallace (pictured) is available on a free transfer.

Wallace still is a registered Ajax player but the club will allow him to return from Scotland and join another local out-

Wallace is a visa player so any club wishing to use him to fill a visa vacancy can contact Don Stirling on 743 2830 for fur-

State League bombs out!

NATIONAL LEAGUE SELECT 2 (Murphy 11th, Brown 85th) **STATE LEAGUE** **SELECT 0**. **Bushfire Appeal game at Olympic Park. Crowd: about 500. Referee: Stuart Melius 9.**

NATIONAL LEAGUE SELECT: Boland 7 (Oliver H.T. 7) Davidson 9, Blair 7 (Kondoros H.T. 7), Yankos 8, Lujic 7 - Ilashi 7 (Vinent H.T. 8), Ozdakov 8, Murphy 8 - Brown 9, Selimidis 9, White 8. Coach: Raye Basic.
STATE LEAGUE SELECT: Denys 7 - Peter Lewis 7, Adams 7, Cannell 7, I. Roodehouse 7, David 6 (Cunningham 85th 8), Selimidis 7, Williams 6 (Ward 65th), Renshaw 6, Bregan 6, Paul Lewis 6. Coach: Len McKendry.

A far from charitable National League Select thoroughly outplayed the State League Select in front of a shameful 500 strong crowd in the Bushfire Appeal clash at Olympic Park.

Despite an embarrassingly small attendance, the National League turned on some superb, interpassing movements. Why can't these guys play like this with their clubs? That was the question most frequently asked in the press box as Doug Brown, Alan Davidson, Ken Murphy, The Seelen, Alan Whittle and Zarko Ozdakov ran rings around their opponents.

Coach Raye Basic played Selimidis at centre forward, the position his club coach at Heidelberg, Ken Morton, slotted him into a week and a half ago against Footscray J.U.S.T. in the NSL Cup. Makedonia midfielder Alan Whittle played on the left wing while J.U.S.T. winger, Zdravko Lujic, played left back. All three played well with Selimidis and Whittle standing out.

Simply stated, the National League side had too much class for the opposition. It rarely was threatened and had far more possession of the ball.

I've got to be honest and say, not only that I was wrong when previewing this game, but that (to borrow a phrase from my mate Tim White) I was way off base.

I had expected the State League Select to be the more cohesive team unit. Frankly, it didn't have enough of the ball to look like scoring, although, after Tommy Cumming's appearance in the 55th minute, a couple of good chances were created.

Cumming immediately sparked an otherwise flat

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

are other youngsters who will figure prominently in the club's plans this year.

Kew has signed Andy Smale from Kellor Austria and Micky Brazil from Moreland and is hopeful of completing Jim Green's transfer from Melbourne this week.

Another newcomer, Joe Thompson, should cross from Bell Park this week.

Kew still is looking for a couple of first team players. Anyone interested can ring "Soccer Action" on 80 0421.

Con to move

Altona Gate goalkeeper Con Dimopoulos is available on a free transfer.

The 26 year old keeper previously played with Northcote City and can be contacted at work on 314 0268 ext. 286 or at home on 365 0513.

It's Lyndale v. Croatia

Progressive Provisional League outfit Lyndale United takes on Melbourne Croatia tonight (Wednesday) in a practice match at Barry Powell Reserve, Halton Road, North Dandenong, starting at 6.45 pm.

The curtain raiser, between Lyndale and Brandon Park under-16's, kicks off at 6.45 pm.

All Croatia supporters are invited to come. Lyndale will provide food and refreshments.

Lyndale has signed Steven Beale, John Karam, Alan Whittaker, Peter McCarthy and Mick Ryan. Beale, 21, a central defender, was signed from Northcote. Karam, 21, is a 21 year old mid-fielder signed from Sunshine.

McCarthy, a 26 year old Scot, has been outstanding in mid-field in recent practice matches. Whittaker, a full back, was signed from Frankston Pines.

Young Keith Romp, a product of Lyndale's juniors, has impressed recently and may win a spot in Lyndale's first team squad.

Nick Karantonis, a 17 year old centre forward, recently has been included in the Victorian youth team squad.

Karantonis scored for the youth squad in its recent 3-2 defeat by Morwell Falcons.

But let's tell this tale properly, and it's one of National League dominance, capped by goals from Murphy and a gem from Brown, and faced with period of consummate control.

A Brown piledriver in the third minute whistled past the far post. The ebullient Hellas maestro tried to repeat the dose in the 10th minute but failed. However he did make enough contact with the ball to send it to the feet of Whittle who then shrank, evaded a challenge, and from six metres was denied a goal by Lou Denys who spread himself superbly.

Murphy thumped the ball just inside his defensive half. He surged through the middle of the park and looked to have played a definitive weight behind him for Bregan, but Lujic slipped in and cleared.

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Denys, however, had no chance as Brown scored as good a goal as you could wish to wrap up this mismatch in the 85th minute. Brown's an explosive, skilful player, capable of turning the tide of any game. He's brash, boisterous, brilliant. He plays with a bravado that suggests anything is possible. A goal looked almost impossible as he received the ball with five minutes left, and was cornered by Stuart Cannell, one of the best stoppers around. But that didn't stop Brown, who cheekily flicked the ball over Cannell's head and rounded the stranded stopper.

Denys was next in line. He too was left floundering after a shrug of Brown's shoulders and a couple of quick paces to the left. The gaping goal was the easy part of the task. Brown tapped the ball home, raised his arms in triumph and casually trotted back to the centre circle as if such feats of sheer inspiration and it will be a credit to the players' self motivation and determination.

Last week I ventured to Olympic Park on a normal club training night and was able, at first hand, to observe two State League teams training.

The clubs, Juventus and Melbourne Croatia, are two well known, well established clubs in Victorian soccer circles. They both command a good deal of media attention and both will be expected to perform well in the State League.

Having seen the conditions under which clubs train, if they are good, coaches John Margaritis and John Gardner will have performed miracles and it will be a credit to the players' self motivation and determination.

They trained beside the car park opposite Olympic Park

under which conditions

they are forced to train. If they are good, coaches John Margaritis and John Gardner will have performed miracles and it will be a credit to the players' self motivation and determination.

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under which conditions

they are forced to train. If they are good, coaches John Margaritis and John Gardner will have performed miracles and it will be a credit to the players' self motivation and determination.

Now that daylight saving has ended and training under

the stars is upon us

it will be a credit to the players' self motivation and determination.

It is one thing to build a team, another to build a club. Getting them to progress together is a much more meaningful proposition.

Several clubs in lower divi-

sions are progressing towards

State League to try and emu-

Rigby on the move

Sunshine-George Cross late last week transfer listed Dave Rigby, Jim McRobert, Hugh McCullum, Gordon Watterson, Steve Ellis and John McNally. Rigby, ex-Mooroolbark, West Adelaide, Hakoah Melbourne, has an undisclosed negotiable fee on his head. The talented, goalscoring midfielder can be contacted on 741 5172 or at home on 80 2568.

Dave Rigby



FLAHERTY AVAILABLE

Brian Flaherty, 29, is available on a free transfer from Metro Third Division club Sandringham City.

Flaherty previously played for Preston Makedonia, George Cross and Kellor Austria. He played for Morton in his native Scotland.

Flaherty essentially is a wide playing striker with a keen nose for goals. He's quick, skilful and a feature of his game is his ability to run at opposing defenders. He can be contacted on 404 3683 at home or 370 7303 at work.

New faces at Rovers

Victorian First Division club Doncaster Rovers has signed utility player Danny Ermini from Nunawading United and midfielder Robert Stocca from Hawthorn.

However, Rovers have lost their goalkeeper, Mick Debolt, who has quit the club.

Rovers finished ninth in 1982 — their first season in First Division — and hope to do much better this time. John Sanchez, former star with Servette, has joined the team. The coach is Trevor Teer and Rob Forsyth.

Two sets of brothers take up five positions in the team — Ian, Keith and Andy Humble, and the Middlemiss brothers, Chris and Kevin, who were bought recently from Doveton.

Other stars at Doncaster are Trevor Teer and Rob Forsyth.

Diamataris to Wests

Metro First Division club Western Suburbs has won the race to sign Melbourne striker Phil Diamataris (pictured below).

Diamataris was approached by seven clubs after putting himself on the transfer list a fortnight ago. Suburbs signed him for \$1500.

He's 22, skilful and quick, and has an outstanding junior background. He joined South Melbourne Hellas at under-10 level, switched to Melbourne as an under-18 then progressed into the senior ranks to become leading scorer in the 1980 and 1982 seasons.

Diamataris played for the Victorian youth team and will greatly bolster Suburb's striking power this season.

of Box Hill — played miraculously to force this Ampol Cup final into extra time.

But Ardeer was finishing much more strongly than the Hillmen, and finally took the lead with a long lob by Steve Maklakewicz.

Gary Hasler, who earlier had hit the post with a promising shot, rounded off the Ardeer triumph with two more goals in each half of extra time.

Both players were:

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Rubbish training at Heidelberg

NEW DISCOVERY: A professor from Caulfield Institute has developed a new game very similar to soccer. If he had gone to Olympic Park two weeks ago he would have seen that AUSTRALIA has been playing it for years.

HOT CUP: That is what the Buffalo Cup turned out to be. The cup was put on display all during the game which was played in 38°C heat. When big Stevie McCombe accepted the trophy at the end of the game he nearly burnt the fingers off himself. As you can imagine the cup was red hot. Maybe Lou Kastner should have accepted the cup for Croydon, he was the only one wearing gloves. Again Lou might have dropped it.

BIG HIT: It seems Doug Brown is still a big favorite with his former fans. Well he looked as if they still love him.

LAUGHS WITH THE DOC

By JOE DOCHERTY



Kenny, and like a startled fawn he bolted back to Heidelberg, kicking as many rubbish bins as he could on the way there.

LEARNING: After the 5-0 defeat at the hands of Green Gully, Heidelberg coach Ken Morton wanted to know the secret of Len McKendry's success. So he (Kenny) slipped into Ajax's ground to watch one of their training sessions. He watched in amazement as Len placed rubbish bins all over the ground and then instructed his players to weave in and out between the bins. That's it, thought

P.K. KING: Big John (Rab Haw) Taylor has made the column for the second week in a row. Apparently he took a penalty kick for Heidelberg-Bundoora last week and hit the bar. This is not unusual for Big J. He hits the bar quite regularly especially the bar in 'The Windsor Castle', 'The Golden Gate', 'The Star', 'The Royal', etc., etc. Let's hear it for Big John! Hic! Hic! Horray.

DINKS: Suave Sav (Andy Savage) nearly burst the dinkometer last Monday when he told us he was off at the reception he got while playing in Hong Kong.

Ten points to George McMillan (Preston). While at Geoff Faulkner's wedding, the waitress asked if she could take the plate away — Big George came out with an excellent "NO WORRIES".

GRIFF'S BACK: Dave Griff's is back in town after a holiday in the U.K. and the lad is ready to go if any club is interested. Dave is a fast-rising striker who has a wicked shot with either foot. His biggest asset is his unusual knack of missing open goals. Griff is not too demanding when it comes to wages. But it will cost you a bloody fortune in starch for his shirt collar.

THE CLASH: The Lyndale Utd v Murumbeena game is fast becoming the sports event of the season. Bass agencies all over Melbourne are battling to cope with the demand for tickets. Also bus companies are being inundated with requests for special services to the big venue. The reason? Keep reading this column for the answer.



Ken Morton



SOCCER AROUND THE WORLD



Italy and Roma star Bruno Conti (left) pursuing Karl-Heinz Foerster of West Germany

How Falcao helped Conti beat Brazil

By ALMIR SANTRE

ALTHOUGH BORN AND REARED IN ITALY, BRUNO CONTI HARROWLY CHOSE TO PURSUE A SOCCER CAREER OVER BASEBALL. IT APPEARED AT FIRST TO BE A POOR DECISION AS THE WINGER'S REMARKABLE SKILLS WERE OVERLOOKED BY THE FANS AND CRITICS, BUT THE 1982 WORLD CUP CHANGED ALL OF THAT. CONTI LEFT FOR SPAIN WITH THE ITALIAN NATIONAL TEAM, UNCERTAIN OF A SPOT IN THE STARTING LINEUP, AND LATER RETURNED HOME AS THE MAN WHOSE INTOXICATING AND SPIRITED DRIBBLING AND PASSING HELPED ITALY ROLL OVER THREE WORLD POWERS ENROUTE TO ITS THIRD WORLD CUP CHAMPIONSHIP.

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It took Italy's triumph in the 1982 World Cup to change this right winger from an unsung hero into a star. His inspired performance, which included plays like the brilliant assist on a Cabrini goal against Argentina, seemingly woke up an entire nation. Upon his return home, many Italians were giving Conti more credit than Paolo Rossi for the victory.

The Conti story almost never happened, and for a highly unlikely reason. Born in Nettuno, a town near Rome, the young Conti became involved in the area's passion for an American import, baseball. "Sunday is the day for soccer all over Italy," he said, "except for Nettuno. There, that's the day for baseball."

Conti developed into the town's star pitcher, reported good enough at 16 to attract a scholarship offer from USC.

His parents rejected the offer, however, and Conti turned his attention to soccer, another sport at which he excelled.

"The people in my hometown were crazy about baseball," he recalled. "So was I, but I could not immunize myself from the national pastime." Conti had already been scouted by Roma as a 14-year-old, and by the time of the baseball offer Roma coach Nels Liedholm was ready to sign him to the junior team.

Thus began Conti's "disappearance" as a soccer

player. He was later loaned to Genoa, returned to Roma at 20 and loaned back to Genoa, all the while quietly improving.

Finally, a breakthrough in his career came when the Swede Liedholm returned after an absence to coach Roma in 1979, and his first request was the return of Conti.

It was a high compliment for the 22-year-old Conti. Liedholm's second request was the acquisition of Brazilian star midfielder Falcao, both requests were granted, and both turned out to be masterstrokes.

With the teaming of Conti and Falcao, Conti gained a new dimension as a player. "Before Roberto Falcao, I used to run like a crazy man for the first 45 minutes," he said. "With Falcao, I've learned to pace myself and play the full 90 minutes. And, of course, my productivity has increased as a result."

Still, it took a lucky chain of

events for Conti to realize his second, and most important, breakthrough. Italy eventually qualified for the '82 World Cup, but not without a long string of injuries and heaps of domestic criticism along the way for its lackluster play.

Under pressure from all sides (including Roma, which insisted that its players be utilized), Italian national team coach Enzo Bearzot began to experiment.

With midfielder Giancarlo Antognoni recuperating from a concussion, Bearzot moved two-time World Cup veteran Franco Causio, 32, from right wing to the middle and put Conti on the front right.

Finally, at stage, Conti demonstrated to the world his long and short passing skills, his powerful shot with either foot, his uncanny ability to manoeuvre in traffic and his overall vision. When Italy squared off against Poland in its first

game of Mundial '82, Conti was a fixture at right wing. Antognoni was back at midfield and Causio was on the bench.

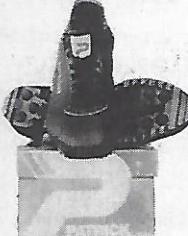
What Conti showed over the next seven matches was no surprise to one man: Roberto Falcao. Upon his arrival in Rome in 1980, the Brazilian star told the media at a press conference that Conti was "the most diabolical wing in soccer," likening him to former superstar Garrincha.

He went one step further on the eve of the World Cup, predicting that Conti would emerge from the tournament as an international sensation.

Falcao's crystal ball was right, but he could not foresee his own greatest disappointment, a game which provided the 12th World Cup with perhaps its most touching moment.

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CHARLTON SET TO AXE SIMONSEN

Alan Simonsen, the Danish international striker and former European Footballer of the Year who cost Charlton around \$800,000 a few months ago from Barcelona, has become something of a disenchanted to the London side battling to keep in the Second Division and deep in debt. Charlton expected big star Simonsen to boost its gates and lift its game but the player, reported to be on \$3000 a week, has failed on both counts and Charlton is poised to sell him.

Aussie-bound?

Both Jimmy Hill and Brian Moore, anchors of BBC's 'Match of the Day' and 'The Big Match' respectively, may be interested in offers from Australian T.V. next season. For the Football League chairmen have flatly turned down the BBC/ITV offer of \$10.6 million to screen programmes for the next two years. The clubs are unhappy at the cost of the right of the media to permit their advertising. But there are several months to go before the present TV/Soccer contract expires, several more pow-wows will take place between the two parties although the television hierarchy has said that this is the final offer. But even if the screens are blank for the weekly soccer programmes on T.V. England's international matches and the F.A. Cup finals won't be affected.

Sexy ref

Saucy soccer referee Janet Walmsley, 35, a divorcee with



From JIM COOK
our European
correspondent

four children who was recently axed by a London Amateur Association for having an after-the-match shower alongside the players, has been reinstated on orders of the London F.A. Janet, a qualified referee for three seasons, said there were no alternative facilities at the club for females and added that she had kept her knickers on.

Breitner coach

West German National Team star Paul Breitner will assume an assistant coaching job with Bayern Munich following the current Bundesliga season. The veteran midfielder, who hopes to one day become a head coach, announced earlier that this would be his last season as a player.

\$1.5m job

Former Hungarian, Spanish and Yugoslav national team star Ladislao Kubala has signed a one-year contract to coach El Hilal of Riad, Saudi Arabia, for a cool \$1.5 million. Kubala's coaching experience includes a stint as Spanish National Team coach.

'Souvenirs'

Officials of an Oslo hotel have sent the Yugoslav soccer federation a hefty bill following the discovery that Yugoslav National Under-23 A Team players had taken everything from bed sheets to fixtures during their recent stay.

Filloi duped

Goalkeeper Ubaldo Fillo, who helped Argentina win the 1978 World Cup and played for his country in the '82 World Cup, lost most of his life's savings in a bogus real estate deal. Authorities re-

ported that Fillo paid a man roughly \$1 million for property in Chaco, an Argentine province 270 miles northeast of Buenos Aires. Unfortunately for Fillo, the seller, who has since disappeared, did not own the land.

Team America

New side in the NASL whose new season kicks off late April is Team America which replaces the disbanded Washington Diplomats and will play at Washington's ground, the Robert F. Kennedy Stadium, in the White House city. Backers of Team America hope to recruit the top American-born players from the 20 in that category and hope that the side will be good enough eventually to represent the United States in the 1986 World Cup. NBC has guaranteed Team America regular coverage.

In brief . . .

Lincoln City directors likely to quit after the chairman was bounded and threatened with death after refusing to give manager Colm Murray around \$60,000 to buy two players . . . Tony Barton the Aston Villa manager says that Juventus is the best side they have ever played . . . Dino Zoff celebrated his 41st birthday . . . Gary Brooke the Spurs player seriously injured in a car crash several weeks ago, won't play again this season . . . Liverpool, likely to get Danish star Michael Laudrup for \$500,000 by the summer . . . Martin Wilkinson quit after 10 years at Peterborough United and Bob Paisley has said that despite being down 2-0 to Widzew Lodz in the European Cup, Liverpool will make up the deficit and win through to the next round in the second leg at Anfield.

Close shave

Bayern Munich players lost its record of not losing a European tie at home for five years when it met Aberdeen in a goalless draw in the first leg of the European Cup Winners' cup quarter final first leg in Germany. The Scots had the balance of play and without their star player Gordon Strachan for most of the game.

Mighty Lodz

English clubs have an appealing record against Widzew Lodz in Poland prior to Liverpool's 2-0 defeat, Manchester United, Ipswich Town and Manchester City had all failed to score in Lodz.

13 booked

Thirteen players were booked and three sent off in the Spanish Cup match between Seville and Real Betis. Seems most of the Spanish clubs are learning from notorious Barcelona.

Jennings' 1000

Pat Jennings, 37, the Arsenal and Northern Ireland keeper has become the first British player to chalk up 1000 appearances in first class soccer.

Popular lad

Liverpool, Barcelona, Juventus, Feyenoord and PSV Eindhoven are all reported to be chasing Denmark's 18 year old star striker Michael Laudrup who plays for Brondby. Laudrup has been coached and guided to the top by his father a former Danish international himself.

Slimming

Ian "Guy the Gorilla" Botham has announced he plans to get back into shape for cricket by playing soccer. Apart from being a professional cricketer, Botham also is on the books with English Fourth Division club Scunthorpe United . . . the club which boasts former England captain Kevin Keegan among its ex-players. The English all-rounder says he hopes to rid himself of the portly figure and at the same time sort out his worrying back and side troubles.



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Questo fine settimana scatta il campionato di Lega Statale, un campionato che si annuncia il più interessante e tecnicamente elevato da quando la creazione della Lega Nazionale lo aveva ridotto ad una competizione di seconde divisioni.

I punti d'interesse sono molti, ma probabilmente tutti fanno capo alla inevitabilità di una ristrutturazione del calcio al massimo livello, così il possibile avvento di una Lega Nazionale regionale che vedrebbe l'inclusione delle migliori squadre del campionato locale.

Questo è indubbiamente il motivo che ha spinto il Green Gully a mantenere i suoi migliori giocatori e, tutto sommato, a rinforzarsi. Questo il motivo che spingerà Croatas, Juventus, Morwell, Croydon e

George Cross a fare bella figura e, possibilmente, a insidiare i campioni del Green Gully. Dietro queste quattro di punta il Fawkner potrebbe essere la grande sorpresa, mentre qualcosa di buono lo si potrebbe aspettare dal Polonia... quindi il battaglio dei vari Doveton, Albion, Box Hill e Northcote e la posizione speciale del South Melbourne Hellas che, ridotto a squadra riserve-vivale della formazione di Lega Nazionale, non può essere presa sul serio, anche se indubbiamente darà dei buoni risultati.

Green Gully Sempre Favorevole

Alla fine del campionato precedente, con le ventilate partenze di McLaglen e Gardner, alle quali finì di aggiungersi anche McLeod, non pensava che il Green Gully si sarebbe disintegrato poiché giocatori del calibro di Peter e Paul Lewis e di Stewart Cannell sarebbero stati sicuramente acciappati da squadre di Lega Nazionale.

Invece il comitato del club ha saputo tener duro e mantenere tutti i suoi migliori giocatori; quindi ha preceduto a rimpiazzare Gardner e McLeod con Short e Toal, magari guadagnando tecnicamente nello scambio, e ha continuato lo stesso con l'assunzione dell'allenatore McKendry, uno dei migliori in senso assoluto in Australia, anche se molto criticato per la sua tattica rinunciataria messa in mostra l'anno scorso con l'Heidelberg.

McKendry è un "ragioniere" del calcio che mira a vincere e che adatta il suo modo di pensare alla disponibilità di giocatori. A Green Gully non sarà certo rinunciario e, giusto per cominciare, ha immediatamente scoperto di avere in Smallman un fuoriclasse di indubbi valore. L'ex nazionale gallesse quest'anno sarà fra i protagonisti del campionato e l'uomo che risolverà favorevolmente molte partite.

Prendere come metro del suo comportamento in campionato la vittoria per 5-0 sull'Heidelberg nella finale dell'Ampol Cup sarebbe errato; innanzitutto perché l'Ampol Cup non viene vinta dalla squadra migliore ma da quella più affidata e più in forma; secondariamente perché l'Heidelberg di quella finale sarebbe stata battuta da molte squadre perché nel bel mezzo di una crisi tecnica ed amministrativa.

Ma l'Ampol Cup a parte, è

sicuro che il Green Gully farà

da battistrada al campionato.

Fra le inseguienti sicuramente ci sarà il Croydon guidato dal sempreverde Rooney e molto omogeneo in tutti i reparti; il Croatia sarà anche tradizionalmente un'avversario di tutto rispetto che avrà in Curcio, Latif e Parton dei giovani che sicuramente esploderanno, mentre gente come Brogan, Adams, Biskic e Fawkner la sanno più lunga del diavolo e non è da escludere che John Garner possa ancora dare il suo contributo

come giocatore; il George Cross, dopo l'assorbimento del Sunshine con la sede di un campo ed una sede sociale, deve essere considerato fra i protagonisti del campionato, anche se fino ad ora ha piuttosto deluso e potrebbe presto rimpiazzare il suo allenatore Tony Vella.

Juventus Con Le Polveri Bagnate

Le tre "italiane", Juventus, Morwell e Fawkner saranno anche fra le protagoniste di questo campionato, in senso generale. In quanto a risultati, nessuna delle tre ha ancora dato segni definitivi di quello che potrà essere il comportamento in campo.

La Juventus aspira, se non altro, a vincere il campionato "italiano", per rimanere la quarta potenza in Australia, mentre il Green Gully è, con un po' di fortuna, anche il campionato assoluto. Cose che sono possibilissime se la squadra di Margaritis riuscirà a segnare con molto più consistenze di quanto ha fatto in pre-campionato.

La retrovia e il centrocampo, con l'arrivo di Drinco e Rogers e il sicuro impiego di un Cavallari finalmente allenato e intenzionato a farcela, non destano preoccupazioni, specialmente se Pat Bannon si limiterà a fare strattamente lo "sweeper", senza ambizioni di "libero", che sono più due ruoli di quindici diversi. La posizione del portiere viene risolta al più presto o con il recupero di Clayton o con la definitiva fiducia a Fantoma. Quello che pur troppo desta preoccupazione, a Margaritis prima di tutti, è il reparto avanzato dove non esiste uno stoccatore capace di risolvere le partite, anche se il giovane Zanni ha portato una nota molto positiva.

Margaritis dovrà presto ammettere con i fatti che French non è più uno stoccatore e troverà quindi un altro ruolo che potrebbe anche essere di panchina. Chi metterà al suo posto?

Improbabile potrebbe anche essere l'uomo goal di cui la Juventus ha bisogno, ma i suoi impegni con la nazionale giovanile lo chiameranno spesso lontano da tutte le responsabilità con la Juventus e il suo impiego a centrocampo con il verde-oro rende questo nuovo ruolo altrettanto difficile da assimilare; Kevin Lloyd ha ancora dei problemi tecnici e di ambientamento e per noi renderebbe meglio come mezzapunta; Nelson forse sarebbe la soluzione migliore perché più mobile e lessito in zona di gioco, ma non è più un centroavanti. La soluzione ideale perciò non esiste e, un club che apertamente aspira alla vittoria in campionato dovrebbe trovare i mezzi per assicurarsi una punta vera.

Il mercato purtroppo non offre molto, ma ci potrebbero presto essere delle possibilità nei "scarti" della Lega Nazionale. Gente come Alan Evans e Jamie Paton potrebbe risolvere la situazione, oppure si potrebbe riscrivere con il giovane Boarder del Buleen, un elemento tutto

briciole che metterebbe scompigliate nelle difese avversarie specialmente agli inizi, quando cioè sarebbe sconosciuto e sottovalutato.

Se questo problema chiava "verra" risolto quasi immediatamente, la Juventus avrebbe le carte in regola per puntare alla prima poltrona. E' uno sforzo che il comitato dovrebbe fare in quest'anno che promette così bene sul piano amministrativo, sociale e finanziario — purché ci siano risultati sui campi.

Morwell Ottimo Sulla Carta

Il Morwell di Tony Boggia sembra invece non aver alcun problema in alcuno dei reparti, anche se il tecnico italiano sta ancora inseguendo un altro "pezzo da quaranta".

A Morwell Boggia ha ricreato l'ambiente ideale che aveva creato per McGuinness alla Juventus, dove la spalla Gillian e il reformista Heery fecero di Boggia il capocannoniere statale.

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Sulla carta perciò il Morwell appare formidabile e potrebbe scavalcare una Juventus senza stoccatore, per insidiare seriamente il Green Gully per la prima poltrona, naturalmente Croatia permettendo.

Fawkner Meglio Del Previsto

Ultimo nell'ordine delle italiane, ma non necessariamente nei possibili risultati c'è il Fawkner. Le forze della matricola del campionato di Lega Statale stanno migliorando con il passare delle settimane, dopo un pre-campionato alquanto deludente.

Innanziututto l'arrivo dell'ex nazionale Palinkas ha dato più consistenza e esperienza alla squadra. Se egli prenderà il posto del campionato statale dopo i fasti del gran calcio, il suo contributo sarà notevole. Andy Bozikas sembra stia finalmente ingrassando dopo un campionato in sordina l'anno

scorso e giustificare quindi il suo nome è il suo passato.

Anche il nuovo acquisto Kojo sta migliorando con ogni partita, sorretto da grande esperienza e da una certa classe. Altre buone notizie per i fiosi azzurri c'è Sergio Sabadini e finalmente ristabilito compiuta e prenderà il via con il campionato, mentre Bruno Sabadini potrebbe essere nuovamente utilizzato in un paio di settimane.

Il ritorno di Sabadini a terzino sinistro libererà il Jolly Schipano per un altro ruolo difensivo, possibilmente sulla destra dove Petrov lascia alquanto a desiderare. Gooney come libero è indubbiamente un punto di forza, mentre per Fattore si aspetta un esame definitivo nella Lega Statale; egli ha buone qualità per riuscire, anche se manca di esperienza e cattiveria che potrebbero metterlo a dura prova contro il genio del calibro di McGuinness, Tony Lewis, Boggia, Gillon e di seguito. In porta Parra si fa spazio, che presto Terzini ritrovi la sua forma, e il suo impegno, migliori dopo la lunga vacanza in Italia. Altrimenti ben farebbe il Fawkner ad assicurarsi il giovane Mezzadra dalla Juventus.

Se la difesa reggerà all'urto degli attacchi di Lega Statale, con la regia di Carlo Sabadini, e la classe del fratello Bruno, l'esperienza di Kojo, Palinkas e Bozikas e la giovinezza di Tuffield e Anselmo a centrocampo e l'attacco non desterranno preoccupazioni e il Fawkner potrebbe diventare una realtà del massimo campionato ancora prima del previsto.

Per concludere questa prima previsione di un campionato in cui, non bisogna dimenticarlo, la "palla e' rotolata", il Green Gully parte nuovamente con favorito, anche se non e' poi inammissibile come risultato del pre-campionato farebbero perciò il Croatia e sicuramente in liza per le primissime posizioni; il Morwell ha tutte le carte in regola per essere fra le massime protagoniste; la Juventus ha bisogno di un centravanti che segna per aspirare al vertice e il Fawkner farà molto meglio di quanto era lecito aspettarsi un mese fa e potrebbe addirittura essere la grande sorpresa di questo campionato come lo fu il Morwell l'anno scorso. Sulla strada delle italiane ci saranno però i componenti il Croydon e il South Melbourne e, probabilmente George Cross e Polon.

Qualunque i risultati fra le varie squadre, e' sicuro che il livello tecnico di questo campionato 1983 sarà elevato e che il pubblico ritornerà più numeroso agli spalti della Lega Statale, grazie all'avvento del Fawkner che rivitalizzerà la comunità sportiva italiana, al miglioramento amministrativo e logistico del George Cross, e al buon comportamento del Polon.



NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

Presents

ROUND TWO

SOUTH MELBOURNE

V

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

MIDDLE PARK

K.O. 3 pm



DOUG BROWN



PETER KATHOLOS

THE BATTLE OF THE COACHES
RASIC v DOCHERTY

Previous results.

'81 0-2

'82 0-0



GARY WARD

PRESTON
V
HEIDELBERG

RADFORD ROAD

RESERVOIR

K.O. 3 pm



DON McLEOD

Previous results

'77 1-1

'78 1-1

'79 0-3

'81 1-1

'82 2-1